



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

*Michael F. Easley*  
Governor

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**GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES THAT 37,445 ACRES AROUND MILITARY  
BASES HAVE BEEN PROTECTED**

**Raleigh** - Gov. Mike Easley announced today that 37,445 acres within five miles of North Carolina's military bases have been protected from incompatible development since the last round of federal base realignments and closures in 1995. The U.S. Department of Defense has identified encroachment by incompatible development near military installations as one of the primary concerns as it develops plans to close and realign military bases and ranges.

"We are committed to continuing to protect both our natural resources and the training mission of our military bases," said Easley. "This is a win-win for the military, the environment and our citizens."

"Through this and many other efforts, North Carolina is positioned well for the upcoming BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) announcement," Easley said. "We are the most military-friendly state in the nation and we will continue to support our military bases and our men and women in uniform."

North Carolina has provided funding for its land protection initiative through the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, Natural Heritage Trust Fund, Ecosystem Enhancement Program and Conservation Income Tax Credit. The U.S. Army and U.S. Navy have provided matching funds for some projects. The Nature Conservancy and the N.C. Coastal Land Trust have assisted the state and the military in acquiring lands and conservation easements. The combined investment total is at \$37,725,660.

Bill Holman, executive director of the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, today told members of the N.C. Advisory Commission on Military Affairs that the CWMTF is "working with other state agencies, conservation organizations, local governments and the military to protect water quality and prevent encroachment."

CWMTF is currently considering 11 additional grant requests totaling \$31,122,867 from local governments, state agencies and non-profit conservation groups to help protect 21,070 acres around Ft. Bragg Army Base, Pope Air Force Base, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Marine Corps Air Station New River and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.